Introduction

The understanding you have built about the information processes is practical, not philosophical. The core concepts and ideas of this course are not random pieces of data existing in a vacuum with no functional meaning or purpose: the goal in understanding them is to be able to comprehend and create systems that use them.

Project Scenario

New information systems are created when old systems do not adequately meet the needs of users of the information system. The success of the new system depends on how well the problem is understood, how well the system is designed, how it is tested, evaluated and maintained over time.

In small groups you are required to plan, design and implement an **online information system** for a small business, employing about 10 people. The business may provide services, market retail goods, or may perform some other function. However, your business must (a) be commercially viable and (b) integrate the innovative use of modern information technologies into its management and daily operations.

Project Tasks

This assessment task is comprised of six distinct components.

Assessed Outcomes

P1.1 Describes the nature of information processes and information technology

P1.2 Classifies the function and operation of information processes and information technology

P2.1 Identifies the processes within an information system

P2.2 Recognizes the interdependence between each of the information processes

P5.1 Selects and ethically uses computer based and non-computer based resources and tools to process information

P6.1 Analyses and describes an identified need

P6.2 Generates ideas considers alternatives and develops solutions for a defined need

P7.1 Recognises and applies management & communication techniques to project work

1. **Public website.** This online information system must exhibit a clear and consistent branding and be cohesively designed. It should feature a company logo that has been designed using appropriate graphics software. It must contain at least (but need not be limited to) the following sections:
   a. Aesthetically-pleasing front page with accessible navigation to the rest of the site
   b. Description of the company's mission and guiding principles, including a rationale for your company logo's design (i.e. motif, features, colours)
   c. Listing of employee positions and biographies
   d. Corporate blog describing company activities and announcements
   e. Catalogue of products and/or services, including detailed descriptions and pricing schemes
   f. Section entitled "How We Innovate With Technology"

2. **Design report**. This hard-copy report must describe, with detailed reference to the relevant information processes and technology, the process of creating the company website. It should be approximately 2,000 words long.

3. **Business spreadsheet**. This must include a company budget, a listing of items in stock (including unit cost price, sale price and profit margin for each item) or services able to be rendered, and a database of client details and their order history with the company.

4. **Group project register**. This must be updated *bi*-weekly at the minimum, and all group members are required to contribute entries. The following items (and more, if they are relevant to the project) should all be added onto the register in real time as the project progresses:
   a. Design decisions
   b. Creation of content or features in the information system
   c. Modifications to the system
   d. Alternative ideas being considered
   e. Communications with system users or participants
   f. Results of testing and feedback received
   g. Updates or adjustments to the project timeline (if required)

5. **Semi-scripted interview**.
   a. This semi-scripted interview is aimed at ascertaining the level of involvement and contribution that each individual has had in the group.
   b. It will last approximately 5 minutes
   c. Students may bring in evidence of their input into the group, but not notes from which they read their answers. During the interview I will be searching for a natural demonstration of each individual's participation in their group.

Project Criteria

Marks will be awarded for:
▶ Original and creative use of appropriate software
▶ Demonstration of competence in the learning outcomes listed above
▶ Group coherence and effective use of group resources. The quality of the project should be of a standard that is impossible for a single student to achieve in the given time frame. Additionally, group members should be intimately involved in each other's work, constructively critiquing and making suggestions for improvement.

Assessment Component	Criteria	Possible Mark	Awarded Mark
Public Website			
Front Page	Aesthetically-pleasing; demonstrates understanding of user interface design principles; includes accessible navigation to major site features	4	
About the Company	Describes company's mission & guiding principles; includes rationale for company logo design	8	
Employee Listing	Lists positions and provides biographical details, academic qualifications and business experience	7	
Corporate Blog	Describes company activities and announcements in a professional and informative manner	12	
Catalogue	Detailed descriptions and pricing schemes provided for an appropriate array of products and/or services	10	
How We Innovate With Technology	Comprehensively explains and justifies the creative integration of information systems into the company's daily operations and organisation	9	
Design Report	Describes the website construction process; includes detailed reference to the relevant information processes and technology (both hardware & software); demonstrates sound understanding of the processes & their integrated nature	18	
Business Spreadsheet	Includes realistic company budget; listing of items in stock or rendered services with unit cost price, sale price and profit margin; database of client details and credible client order history	7	
Group Register	Provides a detailed record of all progress made throughout the project; updated bi-weekly over the course of the project; all group members contributed	10	
Semi-Scripted Interview **This project component algorithmically modifies the mark received for the rest of the group assessment**	Naturally demonstrates innate understanding of group organisation and activities; evidences contribution to the project and involvement in other group members' work	15	
Total		100	